Diversion of land from food crops to cash crops

2843. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are shifting from food crops to cash crops because the input cost including fertiliser prices are high at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any strategy to stop this shift which may prove costly in a couple of years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to given support price to farmers in view of the increase in input costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no significant shift in the pattern of crop production indicating a diversion of area from food crops to cash crops.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) As a part of the Agricultural Pricing Policy, the Government is fixing support prices of various food and non-food crops every year in such a way that it takes due consideration of various factors including increase in input costs.

10-Point Plan to Boost Oilseeds Production

2844. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the 24th August, 1992 under the heading "10-Point Plan to boost Oilseeds Production"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the suggestions such as modernisation of small scale oil industry and creation of infrastructure to promote exports from oilseed sector have long been accepted and schemes have been prepared to improve the efficiency in these areas. Integrated processing units for processing oilseeds are being promoted in the cooperative sector.

Fertilizers at concessional rates to marginal farmers

2845. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any instruction for making available fertilizers at concessional rates to marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether such instructions are proposed to be issued in near future;

(d) what amount of funds were given to Gujarat Government in the last two years for this purpose and to what extent the amount was utilised by that Government;

(e) whether the reasons for non-utilisation of the above funds have been ascertained; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) During 1991-92, a scheme on Fertiliser Subsidy for Small and Marginal Farmers was implemented to exempt the small/marginal farmers from the 30% increase in fertiliser prices. During 1992-93 a scheme has been taken up for providing assistance to small marginal farmers and under this scheme fertiliser could also be supplied to Small and Marginal Farmers at reduced rates. The State Government have been given flexibility in